

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 ARA-10 IO-06 SP-02

INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 PM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 737

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

USINT HAVANA

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRAZZAVILLE 0794

LIMDIS

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MOPS AO FR GE CU UR CG SF WA

SUBJ: MEETING WITH FRENCH CHARGE FROM LUANDA

1. FRENCH CHARGE IN LUANDA PEYRONNET, MET WITH CHARGE DURING VISIT
TO BRAZZAVILLE, JUNE 19. FOLLOWING POINTS EMREGED:

2. AGONIZINGLY SLOW DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN ANGOLA IS OCCASIONED
BY DISINCLINATION OF ANY LOWER-LEVEL ANGOLAN CADRES TO MAKE A MOVE
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WITHOUT CONSULTING HIGHERUPS. EACH LEVEL IS HESITANT TO TAKE ANY
RISKS AND, THEREFORE, VIRTUALLY ALL QUESTIONS END UP ON NETO'S
DESK, INCLUDING MOST PICAYUNE OF DECISIONS. NETO'S HEALTH IS POOR
AND LOPO IS LIKELY SUCCESSOR.

3. COMMON MARKET CHIEFS OF MISSION IN LUANDA MEET REGULARLY.
THEY RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM FRENCH EMBASSY IN KINSHASA TO EFFECT

THAT MBUMBA HAD USED AN ORDER OF BATTLE PREPARED AT MILITARY ACADEMY IN EAST BERLIN, BUT REPS FROM EEC COUNTRIES IN LUANDA HAVE NOTHING THEMSELVES TO CORROBORATE THIS. NOR, SAID PEYRONNET, DO THEY HAVE ANYTHING SUBSTANTIATE REPORTS OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN SHABA II. PEYRONNET VOLUNTEERED THAT CUBAN AMBASSADOR IN LUANDA HAD TOLD HIM THAT "ALTHOUGH CUBANS HAVE FOUGHT ON THE SIDE OF 'LIBERATION MOVEMENTS' ALL OVER THE WORLD, INCLUDING SYRIA," THEY SIMPLY DO NOT RECOGNIZE MBUMBA AND FNLC AS CONSTITUTING A "LIBERATION MOVEMENT." PEYRONNET HYPOTHESIZED THAT ALTHOUGH CUBANS DID ACCOMPANY KATANGANS TO ZAMBIAN BORDER, CUBANS ACTUALLY INVOLVED MAY HAVE BEEN "A TRAINING GROUP WHICH WAS GIVEN CARTE BLANCHE BY CUBAN INTELLIGENCE AND WHICH DID NOT HAVE CONTACT WITH REGULAR CUBAN MILITARY OR EMBASSY ELEMENTS."

FYI: IN OUR INITIAL MEETING WITH PEYRONNET (77 BRAZZAVILLE 011 NOTAL), HE STRUCK US AS WILLING TO BEND OVER BACKWARDS TO EMPHATHIZE WITH ANGOLANS AND CUBANS. HE HAS GIVEN ZAIRIAN AMB HERE THE SAME IMPRESSION. PEYRONNET SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT LESS SUBJECTIVE DURING THIS MEETING, ALTHOUGH THAT MIGHT BE EXPLAINED BY FRENCH ROLE IN SHABA. END FYI.

4. PEYRONNET OBSERVED THAT ANGOLAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS WERE FURIOUS OVER SHABA INCURSION, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME HE SAID IT WAS ALTOGETHER POSSIBLE GOA HAD NO INVOLVEMENT AND THAT PERHAPS EVEN NETO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT. ALTHOUGH HE SUSPECTS THAT, "MAYBE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRAZZAVILLE 794

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

SOME ANGOLAN MILITARY HAD ACTED ALONE IN HELPING THE KATANGANS," PROBABLE EXTENT OF GOA INVOLVEMENT, PEYRONNET CONCLUDED, WAS TO HAVE "TURNED THEIR BACKS TO WHAT WAS HAPPENING," YET TAKING NO "ACTIVE-ROLE.

5. FOR THE ANGOLANS DO NOT TAKE MBUMBA VERY SERIOUSLY, EITHER, PEYRONNET CONTINUED. MBUMBA LIVES LUXURIOUSLY IN LUANDA, WITH A VILLA AND SEVERAL MERCEDES. THE ANGOLANS, ACCORDING TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PEYRONNET, INSTEAD WANT GOOD RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE.

6. PEYRONNET SAID THAT SOVIETS HAD "FORCED THE ANGOLANS TO AGREE" TO BUY A NUMBER OF NEW MIG-23'S, "TO COUNTER THE NEW MIRAGES PURCHASED BY ZAIRE." PEYRONNET MUSED THAT HE HAD ASKED THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN LUANDA ABOUT MATTER AND WAS TOLD, "IF YOU WANT TO REMAIN MY FRIEND, YOU WILL NOT ASK ME ABOUT THIS."

7. PEYRONNET DISCOUNTS UNITA, DESCRIBING IT AS A "REGIONAL MOVEMENT WHICH ALWAYS HAS BEEN AGAINST WHATEVER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EXISTS" (I.E. PORTUGAL AND MPLA). HE COUNSELS AGAINST US INVOLVEMENT ON THE SIDE OF UNITA, COMMENTING THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAS ALREADY ARE GIVING UNITA MORE THAN ENOUGH ASSISTANCE.

8. PEYRONNET NEXT TURNED TO THE QUESTION OF NAMIBIA. CHARGE MENTIONED EARLIER CONVERSATION HE HAD HAD WITH ANGOLAN CHARGE HERE, DURING WHICH LATTER STATED HIS BELIEF THAT ELECTIONS WERE NOT AT ALL NECESSARY IN NAMIBIA BUT THAT IF THEY WERE HELD AND SWAPO LOST, ANGOLA WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ARMED STRUGGLE BY SWAPO. PEYRONNET CONFIRMED THAT THIS, IN HIS VIEW, MOST LIKELY WOULD BE THE CASE, WERE SWAPO NOT TO SUCCEED IN ELECTIONS.

9. LASTLY, PEYRONNET NOTED THAT MOST OF FRENCH GOVT PROPERTIES IN LUANDA HAD BEEN OCCUPIED BY GOA, WHICH HAS SAID ONLY THAT IT WOULD "DISCUSS" QUESTION OF RETURNING BUILDINGS. HE ADDED THAT THE FRENCH DO NOT LIKE "BEING SUBORDINATE TO BRUSSELS" IN LUANDA, IN THAT BELGIANS HAVE AN AMBASSADOR ACCREDITED, WHEREAS THE FRENCH DO NOT. PEYRONNET SAID THAT NEXT STEP IS ASSIGNMENT OF AN ANGOLAN CHARGE TO PARIS; THEREAFTER, JOINT FRANCO-ANGOLAN AGREEMENT ON SIMULTANEOUS ELEVATION TO AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL REPRESENTATION.

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